

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 29, 1794.

Sir: It is to be regretted that the Snow Camilia had not got off before she was arrested by the Revenue officer. To permit it now, as she is a loaded vessel, might be a delicate if not an unjustifiable measure, under the Act of Congress laying an Embargo.

Whether the representation of the French Minister in his *second* application is of weight sufficient to induce a departure from the obvious meaning of the Embargo, is worthy of consideration under the peculiar circumstances which are related.

I am *well disposed*, and think we *ought* to comply with Mr. Fauchet's request,²⁶ if it can be done without involving unpleasant consequences. I am etc.²⁵

26. For a passport for a vessel in ballast.

25. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 30, 1794.

Sir: The Letters *to* the Minister of the French Republic, appear proper. The propriety of laying those *from* him, before Congress, I will converse with you upon tomorrow morning at Eight o'Clock.

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By whom is the request made for a passport for a vessel belonging to Mr. Jno. Brown to go to St. Domingo? I have no objection to the measure, if such cases are within the contemplation of the resolution laying the Embargo, but great care should be used, or a vessel may, I conceive, clear in ballast, and meet a load or part of one, below the custom House.

As one passport has already been granted to carry Mr. Hammonds letter to Jamaica, I do not think the revenue Cutter from Baltimore ought to be sent. If the one belonging to this port was in condition to proceed from Charleston thither, it would have met my approbation, because a double purpose would have been answered, and I confess I see no cause why a vessel capable of the voyage to the latter place, might not be adequate to the other also. I am etc.²⁷

27. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tuesday, April 1, 1794.

Sir: I think the United States will be benefited by granting the request of Louis Osmont, but as applications have, and probably will be frequent, I conceive it will be adviseable to ascertain as nearly as may be the *precise* objects of the Embargo, and having so done to establish rules or principles that will meet cases as they shall occur, which will save trouble at the sametime that it will be a mean of facilitating business. Your etc.²⁹

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Friday, April 11, 1794.

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Sir: The first fruit of the Democratic Society begins, more and more, to unfold itself. You will report what is necessary to be done with the specimen of it which I herewith send,⁴⁶ as it is not only addressed to the Executive, but the Legislature also.⁴⁷ Your's etc.⁴⁸

46. This "specimen" is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

47. Randolph replied (April 12) by sending the opinions of the cabinet "on the Address from the Democratic Society in Washington." Randolph's letter is entered in the "Letter Book"; but the Cabinet opinions are not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

48. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tuesday Morning, April 15, 1794.

Dear Sir: Let me know whether the message (which in the evening of yesterday) I requested you to draw, will be ready by 11. o'Clock this forenoon? If you answer in the affirmative, I shall require the gentlemen, with whom I usually advise on these occasions, to attend me at that hour; for I consider that message, (both as to matter and form,) of such importance as to make it necessary, that every word of it should undergo due consideration.⁵⁶

My objects are, to prevent a war, if justice can be obtained by fair and strong representations (to be made by a special Envoy) of the injuries which this Country has sustained from G: B. in various ways; to put it into a complete state of military defence, and to provide *eventually* , such measures, as seem to be now pending in Congress, for execution, if negotiation in a reasonable time proves unsuccessful.

Such is the train of my thoughts; but how far all, or any of them, except the first, ought to be introduced into the

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56. See Washington's message to the Senate, Apr. 16, 1794, *post*.

message, in the present stage of the business in Congress, deserves, as I have said before, due consideration. Yours, &c.⁵⁷

57. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, April 26, 1794.

Sir: Herewith you will receive two resolves, one of the Senate, dated the 24th., the other of the House of Representatives, dated the 25 instant, accompanying a letter from the Committee of Public Safety of the French Republic to Congress, requesting the President of the United States to cause the same to be answered, on their behalf.⁷¹

This answer you will prepare accordingly, in terms expressive of their desires.⁷²

71. The Senate and House resolves directed in varying language that the reply to the letter from the Committee of Public Safety of France express the friendship and good will of the United States for France.

72. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, April 29, 1794.

Sir: I have read the draught of your letter intended as an answer to the British minister's reply to Mr. Pinckney's Memorial, on the Instructions of the 8th. of June 1793. Those of the 6th. of Novem: following stand unconnected with the subject.

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It is essential that all the cited cases should be correct; and that the general statement should be placed on uncontrovertible ground; otherwise the argument will recoil with redoubled force.

Close attention being given to these matters, and the ideas expressed without warmth or asperity, if upon a revision such should be found to have intermingled, I see no objection to the particular answer which is prepared.⁸³ I am &c.⁸⁴

83. Randolph's draft of an answer had been submitted to Hamilton, who had noticed a "tartness of language" that was not thought advisable. "Before I began to write, I asked Mr. Jay, whether he would prefer, that the subject should be left, as it is, or taken up by me in the way of refutation. He thought, that it was better to enter upon a refutation of Mr. Hammond's memorial. Mr. Jay will otherwise be obliged to do the same thing himself. And I cannot conceive, that a foreign Minister ought to press upon the Secretary of State doctrines, of great prejudice to the U.S.; and that the Secretary should remain silent, as if he were afraid, or could not answer them." Randolph's letter of Apr. 28, 1794, is in the *Washington Papers*.

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, May 29, 1794.

Sir: My private business requires that I should make a journey to Virginia, as soon as Congress shall have closed their present Session, and if public duties will permit, I shall perform it accordingly. The purposes for which I go, cannot well be answered in a shorter absence than Eighteen days, from the Seat of Government.

It is my desire therefore that you would examine all the Laws which have passed this Session (the immediate execution of which depends upon your Department) on which my

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opinions, or direction of mine is necessary, and report the same, together with such other matters as shall occur to you, requiring my agency; that I may leave nothing unattended to before I go, or which may experience any inconvenience from my absence.¹²

12. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

An undated letter from President Washington to the Committee of Safety of the French Republic, announcing the appointment of James Monroe, Minister Plenipotentiary to France, in place of Gouverneur Morris, recalled, is printed in the pamphlet, "Thomas Paine's Letter to the late General George Washington...Paris June 30, 1795." It is hardly more than a signed form letter of the Department of State, and should probably bear the date of May 28, 1794. No copy of it is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR

Philadelphia, June 10, 1794.

It is my wish to set off for Mount Vernon on Monday next. With some inconvenience to myself, it might be delayed until Wednesday; beyond which the purposes of my journey would, in a great measure, be defeated by further delay. I therefore desire that everything which requires my attention in your Department previous to my absence, may be laid before me with as much promptitude as the case will admit of.²⁴

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR

Philadelphia, June 16, 1794.

Sir: Tomorrow I shall commence my journey for Virginia. My absence from the seat of Government will be as short as I can make it, to answer the purposes of my going. In the interim, occurrences may happen, out of the common routine which might suffer by delay. Where this is the case, and the matter is of importance, advise with the other Secretaries

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24. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

and the Attorney General, and carry any unanimous opinion into effect, without suspending the execution for my decision thereon; but advise me thereof by Post.²⁷

27. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 27, 1794.

Sir: I have duly received your several Letters of the 20. 21. and 22 instant, with their enclosures. The only matter which seems to require my immediate attention is contained in the last of them.

I am not disposed, under my present view of the case, to inform Mr. Hammond, that our Envoy at the Court of London, shall be *specially* instructed on the point of compensation for british vessels captur'd by French privateers, contrary to the rules which have been established by this Government; as the general powers of the sd. Envoy extends to and embrace this object. But would it be amiss to let him know informally and verbally, that Mr. Jay's powers go to this, as well as to other cases.

I well remember the precaution I used to prevent any further commitment of the Executive on this head, than a mere expression of his opinion as to the expediency of the measure. This having been

complied with in the communication to Congress of the 5 of December, the matter had better remain, in my opinion, upon the ground it now stands, until things are a little more developed. In the mean time, some such written official answer as you have suggested (softened as it can well bear) might be given to Mr. Hammond.⁴⁵

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45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1794.

Sir: Your letter of the 25 instant enclosing one from Mr. G. Morris of the 7 March, came duly to hand. The measures you have taken in consequence thereof, appear to be expedient and proper.

I am sorry to find by his private letters (two of which I send for your perusal, and to be returned) that *he* and our *other* Ministers abroad, are continually repeating and complaining of their want of information from the Department of State. This, I am sensible, does not apply to you, because, among other reasons, there has not been time between your coming into

office and the dates of their letters, for ground of such complaints. Nor do I think it applicable to your predecessor, further than as it may have proceeded from miscarriages and the want of duplicates. As, however, the evil complained of, may be attended with serious consequences if not remedied, I am led to take this notice of it, in order that duplicates *always*, and in certain cases triplicates, may be forwarded for the information and government of our agents in foreign Countries.

I expect to leave this on Thursday for Philadelphia, and if, upon enquiry at George town, I should find the upper road the smoothest and best, I shall proceed by it, for these reasons it is adviseable to withhold your further communications until I shall have arrived at the seat of the government.⁴⁹

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Baltimore, June 19, 1794.

Sir: At five o'Clock this afternoon, I reached this place, and shall proceed on in the morning.

Mr. Adams' Commission, as Minister resident to the United Netherlands, was signed, if I recollect rightly, before I left Philada. If his letters of credence are forwarded to me by the post, they also shall be signed and return'd to you; to supercede the necessity of his waiting for them, in case everything else should be in readiness, before I return.

As his duties at the Hague, will be few and simple, chiefly of a precuniary sort, there will be no necessity for detaining him to obtain my approbation of his instructions; but I would have the Secretary of the Treasury consulted thereon.³⁴

34. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

German town, 2 o'Clock, August 8, 1794.

Sir: I have this instant received your note of even date with this, and desire if the request of the Attorney General accords with the unanimous sentiments of yourself and the other two Secretaries, the power may be sent agreeably thereto.

I request also that all the information that can be obtained from the Inspector Neville⁷⁹ and the marshal, may be had as soon

⁷⁹. John Neville. He was one of the inspectors of survey of distilled spirits in Pennsylvania.

as they shall have arrived in the City; and wish it to be delivered before yourself and the above gentlemen, that all of you being thoroughly possessed of the facts, and digesting them well, may be ready to meet me at my house in the City tomorrow morning, with your

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opinions on the propriety of changing any measure already resolved on, or for adding others thereto, according to the information which shall be received from them. It might not be amiss that the Inspector and marshal shou'd be at hand, tomorrow at the hour appointed.⁸⁰

80. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Saturday night, 8 o'Clock, Germantown, August 21, 1794.

Sir: I return herewith the Letters which you sent to me by Express. As soon as you have read that from Mr. Bradford to me, you will send it *tonight* to the Secretary of the Treasury, together with the letter to yourself, for his perusal. I shall be in the City tomorrow morning before 8 o'Clock, at which hour I shall expect to see you; and I request you to notify the Secretary of the Treasury thereof, that he may also attend.⁹¹

91. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 4, 1795.

Sir: It is my desire that you would, with as little delay as can be avoided, examine all the acts of the last session of Congress; and report such parts as call for the *particular* attention of the Executive, that they may be put into a proper course of execution.¹⁰

10. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1795.

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Sir: Your letter of the 22d. instant, I received yesterday morning. I still think of commencing my journey for Philada. at the time and in the manner mentioned to you in my last; but if bad weather

or anything else should occur to prevent it, you shall be informed thereof in a P.S. to this letter before it is sent to the Post Office. The request of the Dutch Resident is embarrassing; and means more, I am persuaded, than is expressed.⁷³ For this reason, I would not only have all further acting upon it suspended 'till my return to the Seat of Government; but it is my desire moreover, that you and the Gentlemen who are usually consulted on these occasions, would give the subject the most serious consideration, and be prepared to submit your opinions thereon in writing to me, upon my arrival.

We have every reason (short of official testimony) to conclude, that the Government of the United Netherlands has undergone a revolution; to comply then, with the request of Mr. Van Berckel, might have an unpleasant [effect] both *here* and *elsewhere* ; and not to do it, as no change has been announced, in diplomatic form, would, I conceive, be a departure from the usual and established course of proceeding in like cases. In a word, it seems to have placed the executive between Scilla and Charibdis. Much, however, I presume will depend upon the Consul's Commission, and the specific powers of the resident, if the right of suspension is not clearly established

⁷³. Van Berckel had dismissed the Dutch consul,—Heinaken, and wanted the United States Government to send out official notification of this action.

by usage, or the Law of Nations.

From our Minister in Holland, or from Mr. Monroe in Paris we surely may look every moment for official information of the events in that Country, the receipt of which might remove the present difficulty. I am &c.⁷⁴

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74. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, May [8?]85 1795.

Sir: I have given the correspondence between you and Mr. Van Berckel, respecting the suspension of the Dutch Consul Heeinaken and the request to have his exequatur withdrawn, due consideration.

The papers are returned with a repetition of my desire, expressed to you yesterday, that the proper authorities may be consulted to know how far the usage and practice of Nations, give controul to ministers in foreign countries, over the consuls of their respective nations; particularly of the power of suspending pending them in the execution of their functions. On this ground, or on specific authority from the Government of his nation, the resident must have acted, or he

85. This letter is undated in the "Letter Book," but is recorded between the dates of May 7 and May 13.

has acted without any. After examining into the *first* ; and then the *second* , if the first does not support the proceeding, I shall be better prepared to form my opinion of the measure, than I am at present. In the mean time I request that the Attorney General's opinion may be obtained on the case as stated, laying this letter also before him. I am &c.84

84. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Philadelphia, June 29, 1795.

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Sir: I enclose to you a copy of the resolution of the Senate,¹⁴ advising, that the late treaty with Great Britain be ratified.¹⁵ Upon this resolution two questions arise, 1st Is, or is not that resolution, intended to be the final act of the Senate; or do they expect, that the new article, which is proposed, shall be submitted to them, before the treaty takes effect? 2d., Does, or does not the Constitution permit The *President* to

14. Dated June 24, 1795.

15. Jay's Treaty. It was signed Nov. 19, 1794.

ratify the Treaty, without submitting the new article, after it shall be agreed to by the british King, to the Senate for their further advice and consent?¹⁶

I wish you to consider this subject as soon as possible, and transmit to me your opinion in *writing* ; that I may without delay take some definitive step upon the Treaty.¹⁷

16. These two questions were drawn up by Randolph and submitted to the President, June 25, with the suggestion that the Cabinet members give their opinions thereon in writing. Randolph also informed the President that "Mr. Adet has proposed a conference with E. R. tomorrow morning....Whatever has been lying in his breast will no doubt then appear." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. Randolph's opinion is filed in the *Washington Papers* at the end of June, 1795.

17. The text of Jay's Treaty is printed in the *American State Papers, Foreign Relations*, vol. 1, and also in *Treaties... of the United States*, edited by Hunter Miller (Department of State, Government Printing Office: 1931), vol. 2.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Baltimore, July 18, 1795.

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Sir: At this place, and in the moment I was about to step into my carriage, I was overtaken by an Express bearing the enclosed despatches.

As the application is of an unusual and disagreeable nature;⁴⁰ and moreover, is intended, I have no doubt, to place me in an embarrassed situation, from whence an advantage may be taken, I forward it to you with a request, that you, the other two Secretaries and the Attorney General, will give it due consideration, and if it be proper for me to return an answer, that one may be drawn, which will accord with *all* your ideas (if it can be done) and forwarded to me by post, that I may transmit it from Mount Vernon. In haste, I am etc.⁴¹

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: Both your Letters, dated the 17th Instant,⁴² found me at this place, where I arrived on Monday.⁴³ The Letter from the Commissioners⁴⁴ to you, I return, as I also do the Gazettes of Pittsburg and Boston. The proceedings at the latter place are of a very unpleasant nature.⁴⁵ The result I forwarded to you from Baltimore, accompanied with a few hasty lines, written at the moment I was departing from

40. See Washington's letter to the Boston Selectmen, July 28, 1795, *post*.

41. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

42. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

43. July 20.

44. Of the District of Columbia.

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45. A meeting of the Inhabitants of Boston, July 13, on Jay's Treaty. The original proceedings are in the *Washington Papers*.

thence; with a request that it might be considered by the confidential officers of Government⁴⁶ and returned to me, with an answer thereto, if an answer should be deemed advisable.

In my hurry, I did not signify the propriety of letting those Gentlemen know fully my determination with respect to the ratification of the Treaty, and the train it was in; but as this was necessary, in order to enable them to form their opinions on the subject submitted, I take it for granted that both were communicated to them by you as a matter of course. The first, that is the conditional ratification (if the late order which we have heard of respecting provision Vessels is not in operation,) may, on all fit occasions, be spoken of as my determination; unless from any thing you have heard, or met with since I left you, it should be thought more adviseable to communicate further with me on the subject. My opinion respecting the treaty, is the same now that it was: namely, not favorable to it, but that it is better to ratify it in the manner the Senate have advised (and with the reservation already mentioned), than to suffer matters to remain as they are, unsettled. Little has been said to me on the subject of this treaty, along the road I passed; and I have seen no one since, from whom I could hear

46. The Cabinet.

much concerning it; but from indirect discourses, I find endeavours are not wanting to place it in all the odious points of view, of which it is susceptible; and in some which it will not admit.

I should be glad if you would call upon Messrs. Morris and Nicholson,⁴⁷ (Greenleaf being no longer concerned); and in earnest and strong terms represent to them, the serious consequences which must inevitably result to the public buildings in the federal City, if the

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deficiency, or part thereof, due on their contract, is not paid. Besides arresting the work in its present critical state, and compelling the discharge of some valuable workmen, who may never be recovered; it would throw such a cloud over the public and private concerns of the City, and would be susceptible of such magnified and unfavorable interpretations, as to give it a vital wound. From the representations which have been made to me, by the Commissioners, it appears that twelve thousand dollars pr. month, is scarcely adequate to the *present* expenditures; and that the demand for more *must* increase, as the more expensive materials are brought into use, as they are now about to be of wrought stone &c. &c. If to pay the *whole*

47. John Nicholson.

deficiency is not, at present, within the means of Messrs. Morris and Nicholson, a part thereof, and to keep pace with the current demand, might possibly enable the Commissioners, to proceed without much embarrassment in the *principal* work. Between forty and fifty thousand dollars, I am informed is now due on the Contract of Greenleaf &Co.

As you have discovered your mistake, with respect to the dates of the French decrees, I shall add nothing on that, nor on any other subject at this time, further than a desire to know if you have heard any thing more from M. Adet⁴⁸ on the treaty with G. Britain; and whether Mr. Jaudenes⁴⁹ has replied to your letter to him on the score of his inconsistency. I am, &c.⁵⁰

P. S. A Solomon is not necessary to interpret the design of the Oration of Mr. Brackenridge.⁵¹

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 24, 1795.

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Dear Sir: My Letter from Baltimore, and the one written by Friday's post, dated the 22d. inst: renders it in a manner

48. On July 14 Randolph made the following "Memorandum" which he later forwarded to the President:

"M. Adet came to the office, and told me that he had come to express to me in an amicable manner the uneasiness, which the treaty with Great Britain had excited in him. Professing not to have seen it, I promised him a copy, and that day delivered it to him. He stated some days afterwards in writing three objections: 1. that we had *granted* to Great Britain liberty to seize our naval stores going to France; while France by her commercial treaty with the U. S. could not seize Naval stores of the U.S. going to England; 2. that English privateers may find an asylum in our ports, even during the present war with France; and 3. that France could not open a new negotiation with us, as we were prevented from departing, in a new treaty, from this stipulation in favor of British privateers; and France would not give up her prior right.

"In answer to the first objection, I have written to him, that contraband is left unchanged, where it stands by the law of nations: that the working of our treaty with France is reciprocal; inasmuch as if we were at war with England, France would be just where we are now; and that this working of our treaty was plainly foreseen, when it was made. Still I tell him, that upon the principles of hardship or injury to a friend, it shall be a subject of our new negotiation; shall not wait for the general treaty; and I doubt not that some modification may be devised.

"In answer to the second, I have written to him; that English privateers will not be admitted into our ports, during this or any other war with France: that our stipulation is exactly the same with that in the treaty of France with England in 1786; that the French treaty is protected from infraction by a positive clause in the treaty with G. Britain, and that it never shall be violated.

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"In answer to the third objection; I have written to him, that we would not ask him to renounce the advantages given to French privateers, in exclusion of the enemies of France; and that the old treaty might be continued in force respecting this particular, so as still to give this right a priority to the like right, stipulated by the treaty with G. Britain.

"In the last paragraph of my letter I desire, that if any embarrassment still hangs upon these points, he may afford me an opportunity of meeting them, before his communications are despatched to the committee of public safety. While I was transcribing my letter, he came to see me; and I read to him the observations on the last point. He exclaimed, that they were very good, very good; and I inferred satisfactory. I met him at the President's, some time afterwards, and asked him if he had received my letter. He said, 'Yes.' I told him that I hoped, I had placed the subject upon a satisfactory footing. He expressed a degree of satisfaction; but not so pointed, as what he had said to me, as to the part of the letter, relative to the third objection. He added something about his not intending to discuss the law of the 23d. of March; but he spoke in so low a voice, that I did not catch his meaning...My letter was dated the 6th. of July; and was sent on the 7th. or 8th. I have received no answer to it." This "Memorandum" is in the *Washington Papers*.

49. José de Jaudenes.

50. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

51. Hugh Henry Brackenridge.

unnecessary for me to add more on the score of the treaty with G. Britain, or on the movements which are taking place thereupon in different parts, than to inform you that if circumstances should make it more eligible for me to repair to Philadelphia, than for you to come to this place, I can set out as well on a day's as a month's notice, for the seat of Government; where, if matters are peculiarly embarrassed, I should be on the theatre of information, with documents and other aids about me, that could not be had here.

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I have not, as I mentioned to you in my last, heard much respecting the treaty since I left Philada. At Baltimore I remained no longer than to breakfast. In George town my whole time was spent on business with the Commissioners; and in Alexandria I did not stop. Yet the same leaven, that fermented a part of the Town of Boston, is at work, I am informed in other places; but whether it will produce the same fruit, remains to be decided.

I shall expect, agreeably to the assurances you have given me, to be well and regularly advised of the pros and cons in this business, and the preponderancy thereof. The Letter of Colo. H.52 is returned. The one from Colo Deakins serves to shew

52. Alexander Hamilton.

in a greater degree, the necessity there is that Messrs. Morris and Nicholson should exert themselves to avert the threatened evil; and the French letter is forwarded for translation, or to be acted upon, if necessary.

The introduction of A. R. H.53 to you was, I conceive, more the effect of design than of ignorance or inadvertency. The impropriety of the measure was too palpable, even if instances in abundance had not announced, that characters in the predicament that Gentleman was, could not be noticed by the officers of Government without giving umbrage.⁵⁴ The conduct of Mr M. is of a piece with that of the other; and one can scarcely forbear thinking, that these acts are part of a premeditated system to embarrass the Executive government. I am, &c.⁵⁵

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: My Letters for the post office in Alexandria, had been sent off some hours before the enclosed dispatches were put into my hands by the young Gentleman,

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53. Archibald Hamilton Rowan.

54. Randolph's letter of July 20 (in the *Washington Papers*), telling of the Rowan incident, states that "Rowan, who was convicted of sedition in Ireland, arrived the day before yesterday from France. Major Butler brought him to my office, to introduce him. This *inaccuracy* of this member of the senate [Pierce Butler, of South Carolina] did not surprise me; nor did it betray me into more than decent civility to a man, who brought a recommendatory letter from Colo. Monroe, dated in April."

55. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

whose name is mentioned in Gov Clintons Letter to me, also forwarded.

Not willing to lose a post day, I hasten to send these resolutions above alluded to, late as it is, to Alexandria, to go on tomorrow; with a request similar to the one made from Baltimore. A day or two more will, I presume, bring to me the result of the meeting proposed to be held in Philada., which, probably will be followed by one from Baltimore and other towns; altho' I have no advice thereof further than the papers contained, as being in agitation at Baltimore before I left Philada. If one comes from the last mentioned place (Philad.) and is immediately published, as the others have been, before delivery; let me answer thereto, if answers are adviseable, follow it without waiting for my request. I have no time to add more, than that the commercial part of the treaty, as far as my information goes, is generally disliked. I am, &c.57

P. S. What says Mr. Adet upon the subject of the treaty, and the movements thereupon?58

57. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

58. Randolph answered (July 31): "Mr. Adet has been ill, ever since you left this city. So that I have not seen him; nor do I collect any of his opinions. He bolted into objections to the treaty so zealously, and retreated so suddenly, that I cannot help thinking that he

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conceives, he had in a degree committed his government." Randolph's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

Sir: The contents of your Letters of the 21st and 24th Inst. which I received by Monday's post, the importance of some of their enclosures, and the perturbed state of men's minds respecting the late treaty with Gr: Britain together with the proceedings in some of the principal towns to embarrass the business, have determined me to repair to the Seat of Government, if I hear nothing from you between this and Monday next to render it unnecessary. Two reasons delay my setting out previous to that day; the first is, the uncertainty I shall be in, until I hear from you subsequently to your receipt of my Letter of the 24th instant, whether you may not be on the road yourself: and 2^d. because a general meeting of the Potomac Compy, on important business, is to be held in Alexandria on Monday next, at which I am much pressed to be.

The proclamation⁷¹ is herewith enclosed. along with it you will receive the Resolutions of the town of Portsmouth (New: Hampe.) similar to those of Boston and New York; and the counter proceedings of the Chamber of Commerce in the last mentioned place, to those which I forwarded to you, from thence,

71. Of July 10, pardoning certain of the insurgents in western Pennsylvania. Sparks states that it was not published until August 6. See p. 232.

by the Mail of Tuesday. I also return, under cover of this Letter, the draft of the memorial⁷² and the rough of a ratification. These are very important papers, and, with the Instructions which follow, will require great attention and consideration, and is the primary cause of my returning to Philada. Mr. Jaudenes will, in spite of himself, be arrogant and inconsistent. Perhaps a closing Letter to him on the subject of negotiation may not be amiss. Mr.

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Monroe's letter, and the enclosures are among the papers which I send you. With esteem, &c.

P.S. Mr. Adet's answer is such an one as I expected. Do with the French letter herewith enclosed, whatsoever is proper.⁷³

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1795.

Dear Sir: The messenger, who was sent yesterday afternoon to the Postoffice in Alexandria, returned without letters: the Mails not having arrived.

Some hours after my Messenger was dispatched for Alexandria, the Richmond production was delivered to me

72. See note 67 to Washington's private letter to the Secretary of State, July 29, 1795, *ante*.

73. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

by Express: sent for that purpose. They have out gone all that has gone before them: but the meeting, according to the acct. given by the Express, was not numerous; and some of the principal characters not in town.

I send the proceedings to Alexandria today, to go on by the first Mail, to be acted upon as mentioned in former letters. I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, March 6, 1796.

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Sir: I have given your letter of instructions to our Minister at the Court of London, attentive consideration, and approve them; unless the last clause but one should give rise to the negotiation of an article which may not accord with the result of a motion which is pending in the House of Representatives; (introduced, if my memory serves me, by Mr. Smith⁵³ of Baltimore) of which however I have but an imperfect recollection.

I think too (even with the advantages proposed to be obtained by the reduction) our

53. Samuel Smith, Representative from Maryland.

negotiator should adhere, even to the hazard of the treaty altogether, to vessels of one hundred tons burthen for the West India trade.

These things, and a general view of the subject, as comprised in the Instructions, added to matters which have been, and may yet be introduced into Congress, which may have relation to the proposed negotiation, incline me to think that it would be better to forbear sending the dispatches for Mr. Pinckney by the ship Favorite (as other conveyances will, no doubt, soon offer), and to take more time in consulting the most intelligent mercantile characters within your reach, on the *principles* and *heads* of the several articles which are the subject of them.

The Instructions ought, in my opinion, to be accompanied with powers. They may be offered, or not, as occasion shall require. They can, with this alternative, do no harm; whereas the want of them, if called for, may occasion a suspension of the measure. Mr. Adams's letter, and Lord Grenvill's propositions, relative to captured vessels of a certain description; and with respect to the pay of the Commissioners, require immediate attention.

Proclamations of the treaties with Spain and Algiers,⁵⁴ should issue as soon as they can be prepared; and the ratification

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54. The Treaty of Peace and Amity with Algiers was signed Sept. 5, 1795, ratified and proclaimed Mar. 7, 1796. The Algerian captives were released by the Dey, July 8, 1796. The Spanish treaty was proclaimed Aug. 2, 1796. No texts of these proclamations are found in the *Washington Papers*.

of the former despatched as soon as possible. Measures also for carrying these, and the other treaties which have been ratified and proclaimed, into effect, ought to meet with no delay that can be avoided.

And I request you would concert measures with the Secretaries of War, and the Treasury if necessary, for proceeding vigorously and securely with the Arsenal at the confluence of the Potomac and Shannondoah.⁵⁵

55. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

TO THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Philadelphia, March 25, 1796.

Sir: The resolution moved in the House of Representatives, for the papers relative to the negotiation of the Treaty with G. Britain⁶⁶ having passed in the affirmative, I request your opinion,

Whether that branch of Congress hath, or hath not a right, by the Constitution, to call for those papers?

Whether, if it does not possess the right, it would be expedient under the circumstances of this particular case, to furnish them?

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And, in either case, in what terms would it be most proper to comply with, or to refuse the request of the House?

66. On March 7 Edward Livingston's resolution of March 2 was called up before the House of Representatives and amended by him so as to except "such of the said papers as any existing negotiation may render improper to be disclosed." The matter was debated until March 24, when Livingston's amended resolution was carried by a vote of 62 to 37, and presented to the President by a committee of the House. The President's reply, as reported by Livingston to the House, March 25, was "that he would take the request of the House into consideration."

These opinions in writing,⁶⁷ and your attendance, will be expected at ten o'clock tomorrow.⁶⁸

67. The opinions of the Attorney General, and the Secretaries of the Treasury and War, are dated March 26 and are in the *Washington Papers*. All these opinions advised against compliance with the resolution of the House. In addition, the Attorney General extracted from the journal of the Constitutional Convention, the proceedings bearing upon the treaty making powers. These extracts also are in the *Washington Papers*.

68. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 24, 1796.

Sir: The information contained in a letter⁸ of which the enclosed is a correct copy (with a reservation only of names agreeably to the request of the writer) may serve as a comment upon the conduct of the owner of the privateer Flying-fish; and as a development also of the intentions of the French Government so far as it relates to the Commerce of the United States with Great Britain. The communications in the last numbers of the Aurora (that I

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have seen) afford still further evidence of this system, and are calculated most evidently to prepare the public mind for this event, at the same time that they labour to make it appear that the treaty with that country is the cause of such conduct in France.

The *source* from which the information comes, cannot, as to it's authenticity and knowledge of facts, be doubted; of course, if the persons through whom it has passed

8. From Hamilton (undated but filed in the *Washington Papers* under the date of its receipt by Washington, June 23).

to the reciter are not mistaken in their details, the most entire credit is to be given to the account.

Under these impressions, and the serious aspect which they present, it is my request that you, and the Secretaries of the Treasury and War would meet; consult the treaties, the laws of nations and of the U. States, which have any relation to the subject, and after mature deliberation, to report to me your opinions of the measures, which you conceive ought to be adopted under such information and circumstances, particularly,

1. Whether immediate explanation should be asked on this subject, from the Minister of the French Republic in Philadelphia: and in that case (which I am inclined to think is right) to proceed without the delay of sending to me, to make the requisition accordingly. Unless from the tenor of the answer to the letter you had drafted before I left Philada. respecting the capture of the Mount Vernon, it should in your judgments be unnecessary.

2. Whether there is power in the Executive, and, in that case, whether it would be expedient, in the recess of the Senate, to send an extra character to Paris to explain the views of this Government, and to ascertain those of France; and in the affirmative of these, to suggest for my consideration the names of such persons as in your opinions are best qualified to subserve these purposes.

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I shall expect to hear fully

from you on this interesting subject, and shall only add, that if, in the investigation of it, my presence in Philada. is deemed necessary, or if any other occurrence should require my return before the time I had allotted for it, I can and will set out for that place as soon as I am advertised of the necessity.⁹

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 27, 1796.

Sir: The post of Friday, to Alexandria, brought me your dispatches of the 22d. instant.

Mr. Adet's answer to your communication, relatively to the capture of the ship Mount Vernon, leaves the matter as undecided as before; and his reserve may, it is to be feared, be considered as a collateral evidence of the truth of the information I handed to you in my last; and contribute to shew the necessity of having a proper understanding of this matter.

The privateer Flying-fish, might not have *brought* orders for capturing our provision vessels bound to British posts, but she might have *received* them through Mr. Bournonville who came out at the same time the French Commissioners did to St. Domingo.

9. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 24 Washington wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, directing commissions to be made out for certain minor appointments and adding: "Of this date I have written to the Secy. of State on an interesting subject, requesting him to deliberate with you and the Secretary of War on the purport of the Communication, and to transmit me the result. To this letter and its enclosure I shall refer you." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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My sentiments with respect to the successor for the office rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Gorham, and the changes consequent of the removal of Mr. Jonathan Jackson¹⁸ to it, were communicated by the last Post to the Secretary of the Treasury; who was also informed, that in case of the nonacceptance of the office of District Attorney for Massachusetts by Mr. H. G. Otis, 19 I approve of its' being given to Mr. Davis ²⁰ the present Comptroller, provided his professional knowledge (of which I had no correct information) was deemed adequate to the discharge of the duties, and he would place himself in a situation to render them conveniently to the public.

If Mr. DeWitt²¹ should decline the office of surveyor General, give me notice of it without delay; and you may accompany it with the names of persons (if any should occur or be brought to your view) as may be thought qualified for so important and trust-worthy an appointment.

Are there any accounts yet from Captn. Lewis? And what are the last accounts from the western posts? Let the letter which goes under cover with this for Major Pinckney, receive the earliest safe conveyance which may offer, as I find by the paper it has missed the hands of Mr. King, by whom I intended to forward it. ²²

18. He succeeded the vacancy of supervisor for the Massachusetts District, caused by the death of Nathaniel Gorham.

19. Harrison Gray Otis.

20. John Davis. He was appointed United States attorney for the Massachusetts District.

21. Simeon De Witt. He declined the appointment.

22. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Mount Vernon, July 1, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 27th is received. I am sorry Mr. DeWitt, from the competency of his abilities to discharge the duties of the office of Surveyor General, declines accepting it.

Colo. Tinsley's²⁹ recommendations go more to the respectability of his character,

29. Thomas Tinsley, of Virginia.

than his scientific knowledge. The first is essential; but not sufficient without the other. I will obtain the best information I can respecting the latter; but would not have you discourage any other eligible applications on his account.

From the representation of Mr. Dinsmore,³⁰ it appears to be indispensable that the line, between the United States and the Cherokees, should be run and distinctly marked as soon as possible. The Indians urge this: the law requires it; and it ought to be done: but I believe scarcely any thing short of a Chinese wall, or a line of troops, will restrain Land jobbers, and the encroachment of settlers upon the Indian territory. I request that you and the other two secretaries would take this matter into consideration, and report to me how soon, and in what manner this work should commence. Ascertaining the boundary removes the pretext of ignorance, and may with other applications *check*, if it does not effectually *cure* an evil which is pregnant of serious consequences.³¹

30. Silas Dinsmore. He had been a lieutenant of the United States Artillery and Engineers, but had resigned in 1794.

31. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1796.

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Sir: The Spanish Minister, Mr. de Yrujo³⁵ spent two days with me, and is just gone. I caused it to be intimated to him that as I should be absent from the seat of the Government until the middle, or latter end of August, that I was ready to receive his letter of credence at this place. He answered (as I understood it) that his credentials were with his baggage on its passage to Philadelphia; and that his reception at that place, at the time mentioned, would be perfectly convenient and agreeable to himself. He is a young man, very free and easy in his manners; professes to be well disposed towards the United States; and as far as a judgment can be formed on so short an acquaintance, appears to be well informed.

Enclosed are two letters from the Governor of Pennsylvania, applying for the aid of the general government to execute effectually the quarantine he had proclaimed. I left Philadelphia under an impression that circular letters had been written by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Collectors of the different ports, and by the Secretary of War to the officers commanding the Garrisons on the sea-board, to pay proper attention to the act of Congress relative to Quarantine.

From the application of Govr. Mifflin, the presumption is, that there has been an omission somewhere. Let me desire that you,

35. Carlos Martinez, Marquis de Casa Yrujo.

and the other two gentlemen ³⁶ would meet, and see where it lies, that a remedy may be immediately applied. And I request that you will acknowledge the receipt of the Governor's letters and inform him of what is, or will be done.

I desire to be informed also, if any thing is, or can be done relatively to the appointment of an Indian Agent, in place of Governor Blount; and others for carrying on the trade authorized by Congress with those people.³⁷

36. Of the Cabinet; namely, Wolcott and McHenry.

37. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1796.

Sir: My letters to the Secretary of the Treasury, of the 4th. and 6th. instant, with the present enclosure, convey fully the sentiments of the Attorney General with respect to the best mode of executing the act "for the relief and protection of American seamen." He has, since his opinion was transmitted in the above letter of the 6th, consulted two of our most eminent lawyers in these parts, and finds an entire accordance

of opinion. I request therefore that the measure recommended may be pursued.⁵⁵

Your letters of the 1st and 2d. instant, with several enclosures in the latter came safe and duly to hand. After that serious consideration which the subject deserves, I have determined to recall the American Minister at Paris, and am taking measures to supply his place; but, the more the latter is resolved, the greater the difficulties appear, to do it ably and unexceptionably. By this I mean one, who will promote, not thwart the neutral policy of the Government; and at the same time will not be obnoxious to the people among whom he is sent.

Proofs, little short of positive, are already in my possession, that neither Mr. Henry nor Mr. Marshall would accept of such an appointment. The chances against Genl. Pinckney's doing it are strong, tho' not quite so great; and, with respect to Mr. Smith, altho' it would be a very agreeable choice to me, I am sure it would not concenter those opinions which policy would require. Mr. Carroll, of Carrolton, tho' sensible and attached to federal measures, would find himself on quite new ground, and besides, he has such large

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concerns of his own to attend to, and is so tenacious of them, that it is morally certain he would not be prevailed on to go.

Having taken this view of the subject,

55. See note to the letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, July 4, 1796, *ante*.

I am by this day's post writing to Genl. Pinckney. This letter I shall enclose to Mr. Marshall (as he is in the line, Mr. Henry being much out of it) to be forwarded, or returned, as he shall decide with respect to himself. In the mean time, as the offer ends with Genl. Pinckney, other characters should be held in contemplation, in case of his refusal.

The Letter to the Minister plenipotentiary of France, in Philada. appears to be well conceived, and is accordingly approved. The transmitted copy of Mr. Monroe's letter 56 to —57 must be erroneously dated "Paris, June 24, 1796." I presume it is in the year, and should be 1795.

56. This was one of the letters removed by William B. Sprague from the *Washington Papers* when they were in the possession of Jared Sparks. The copy in the *Washington Papers* is in Sprague's writing. Monroe wrote: "I give you within a short sketch of the actual state of things here, a copy of which I likewise send to one or two other friends of whom Mr. Beckley is one. If you and Mr. Beckley, if in Philadelphia, deem it worthy the attention, I have no objection to your inserting it in Bache's paper, the first paragraph excepted. And if you likewise approve, I will hereafter keep you regularly apprized of the course of events, whereby the community at large may be more correctly informed of the progress of the revolution than they heretofore have been or can be from the English prints." Monroe's letter was forwarded to Washington with the opinion of the Cabinet of July 2, 1796.

57. Dr. George Logan.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Mount Vernon, July 20, 1796.

Sir: Your Letters of the 12 and 13 instant, with their enclosures, were received by monday's mail the 18th.

The duplicate Commission for John Trumbull;⁸¹ the blank Commissions for the Revenue officers; and the patents passed by the Attorney General, are all signed and returned under cover with this Letter.

The want of funds to carry on commerce with the Indian tribes, agreeably to a late act of Congress, is an unanswerable objection to the appointment of agents *at this time* , for that purpose: and in addition to the reasons you have assigned for not appointing a Superintendent of Indian affairs in place of Governor Blount; and for postponing running and marking the line between the United States and the Cherokee nation of Indians; the want of power in the President to appoint Commissioners to attend the survey, and a successor to the other, would I conceive, appear upon investigation; as the first would be an original appointment; and the latter did not take place in the recess of the Senate. It follows then of course, that these measures must stand suspended, and the best temporary uses made of the present situations and services of Colo. Henley and Mr. Dinsmoor, ⁸² that the nature of things will admit.

81. United States agent for obtaining the release of impressed American seamen.

82. David Henley and Silas Dinsmore.

Not knowing myself, the purport of the German letter herewith enclosed; and having nobody about me that can translate it, I send it to you for this purpose, in order that I may know what attention to give it.⁸³

83. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1796.

Sir: Your Letter of 15 instant enclosing a copy of Mr. Adet's answer to your requisition of the 1st, and the circular of the Secy. of the Treasury to the Collectors, has been received; but did not get to my hands 'till the 20th.

There is a studied delay in the answer of the first, and a misteriousness in his conduct not easy to be accounted for. It did not, surely, if he had received no information from his government, and was ignorant of its intentions relatively to the points on which explanations were asked, require, (be the pressure of business what it might) fifteen days to make that declaration; nor will candour and good disposition justify the measure.

Not having papers here of [a public nature to resort to, I shall hope that the circular letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, to the Collectors; and all the Orders respecting French Prizes, have, in time and manner, been the result of necessity; and not the exercise of discretion; for the restriction *now*, after a contrary practice has been *allowed*, will be a source of much discontent; and of course calls for very correct proceedings in the execution of the Treaties, and Laws respecting the case.] 85

85. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington, from a facsimile in an auction catalogue, 1934.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1796.

Sir: Your Letters of the 18 and 19 inst: were received by Friday's post the 22d.

If the answer which you returned to the Minister of the French Republic to his enquiry relative to the prohibition of the sale of Prizes, brought by French armed vessels into

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the ports of the United States, should, as it ought, preclude any reply it would be very agreeable: but it has not been found, that when the interest, or convenience of that nation is at stake, that the Minister thereof can be satisfied with reasons, however cogent, which are opposed to their views. But in this case, as in all others, the Executive must be governed by the Constitution and laws; and preserving good faith, and an unbiassed conduct, leave the rest to the good sense of our own citizens, and the justice of the nations with whom we have intercourse.

As it has been resolved for political considerations to put an American Citizen as Consul at Hamburg in place of Mr. Parrish,⁹⁴ it is fortunate that so eligible a character as Mr. Samuel Williams of Salem presents itself, and I desire he may be commissioned accordingly, and advice thereof, as mere matter of information, given among other communications which may be made, to Mr. Monroe.⁹⁵

94. John Parrish (Parish).

95. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1796.

Sir: Your two letters, both bearing date the 21st. instant, with their enclosures, were received by the last Mail to Alexandria. It would have been unfortunate, and much indeed to have been regretted, if the French government had had as great cause of complaint against the conduct of the United States, as they have shewn a disposition to complain. It was natural to expect, tho' it was not easy to conceive on what ground, the French discontents, which had been so often announced, accompanied with such terrific threatenings, chiefly by anonymous writers, that the formal exhibition of them under the authority of the Directory, by their Minister of Foreign Affairs, would have had something serious, formidable, and embarrassing in their appearance; instead of which,

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most, if not all the charges seem to have originated either in a misinterpretation, or from want of attention, to Treaties and the Law of Nations; or to the want of a just, and timely representation of facts, with accompanying explanations; which our Minister near the French government had it in his power, and was directed to make.

Presuming that Mr. Polanen⁹⁶ is regularly accredited by the proper authority of the existing government of the

96. R. G. Van Polanen.

United Netherlands, I see no cause, accordant with the principles which have actuated the government of the United States, why, when I return to Philadelphia, he should not be received as the Minister Resident of that Country. And if no objection (unknown to me) should occur to you, Mr. Polanen may be so informed. My arrival there will be by the first of September.

Instructions from the Treasury department to the Collectors, relative to the mode of obtaining Passports by American Seamen, will certainly be as effectual, and probably is as proper, as if they had issued from the Department of State; and this was my opinion to the Attorney-General: But he observed, first, that it was not in any respect connected with the Revenue of the Country. and 2dly. that there were some other Provisions in the Law (I do not now recollect of what nature) that required the Agency of the Department of State. I am satisfied, however, with the Circular which has been adopted; as the design will be equally well answered by it.

The original papers, forwarded with your last dispatches, are herewith returned. 97

97. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Robert Friedenberg, of New York City.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Mount Vernon, August 1, 1796.

Sir: Your letters of the 26 and 27. ulto. were received by the Post on friday last. Forwarding without further direction the Commission appointing Mr. Davis ⁸ Attorney for the District of Massachusetts in place of Mr. Otis⁹ after satisfactorily ascertaining those points, which had occasioned the hesitation, was perfectly conformable to my intentions.

I rejoice to find by the account you have given of the contents of the dispatches from Colo. Humphreys, that there is a probability of the speedy release of our captives in Algiers; that the Dey had recovered his temper, and that Mr. Barlow ¹⁰ had been received as our Consul at that place. The suggestions of that gentlemen, relative to the policy and utility of forming commercial and friendly relations with the Italian States, with Austria and with the Grand Seignior, deserve serious attention; and I not only request you to bestow it, but to ascertain in the best manner you

8. John Davis.

9. Harrison Gray Otis.

10. Joel Barlow.

can, against my arrival in Philadelphia, the principles on which such connexions could be advantageously formed. Good measures should always be executed as soon as they are conceived and circumstances will permit.

It has ever been my opinion from the little I have seen, and from what I have heard of Mr. Barlow, that his abilities are adequate to any employment; and, improved as they must have been by travel and the political career he has run, there can be little doubt of his fitness as a negotiator for some of the Countries above mentioned, with proper instructions.¹¹

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 3, 1796.

Sir: Herewith you will receive my signature to the Commission appointing Samuel Williams, of Massachusetts, Consul for the U. States at the port of Hamburg &c. transmitted to me in your letter of the 29th ultimo.

If Mr. La Motte possesses much experimental, as well as theoretical knowledge in the casting of Cannon &c. there can be no doubt of the utility of his services; and coming with his family will be an evidence

11. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of his intention to remain; but the latter ought not to be accomplished at the expense of the United States, unless his services are secured. But Mr. Monroe it is to be presumed will take care that one does not happen without the other. 15

15. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1796.

Sir: With much pleasure did I receive the information, contained in your letter of the 30 ultimo, of the ratification of the Treaty with Spain, by the Government of that Country. The unwelcome news of the plague being at Algiers is an alloy thereto; but we must trust that Providence will prevent our unhappy fellow citizens at that place from suffering by that malady. Much is to be regretted that so many untoward accidents should have prevented the redemption money²⁰ from getting to that regency before this event took place, but

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as there has been no want of exertion in the Government to accomplish this, no *blame* attaches itself, whatever may happen.²¹

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 3d. inst: accompanying the ratified copy of the Spanish treaty, by his Catholic Majesty, came to my hands by the last post. The Proclamation annexed thereto has received my signature,³⁴ and is herewith returned. ³⁵

20. For ransoming captured American seamen.

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

34. The proclamation is the usual form which recites the full text of the treaty. It is dated Aug. 2, 1796, although, from this letter, it was not signed by the President until August 8. No copy is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

35. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1796.

Sir: I have received, and pray you to accept my thanks, for Pinckney. It becomes necessary *now* to prepare instructions for him without delay: to bring him fully and perfectly acquainted with the conduct and policy of this Government towards France &c. and the motives which have induced the recal of Mr. Monroe.

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As the measure, when known, will excite much speculation, and set all the envenomed pens to work; it is worthy of consideration what part, and how much of the causes which have produced this event, should be spoken of *unofficially* by the officers of Government.

It will be candid, proper and necessary to apprize Mr. Monroe (as the measure and his successor are decided on) of his recal; and in proper terms, of the motives which have impelled it.

In the course of next week (probably about the middle of it) I expect to commence my journey for Philada; but as I shall be obliged to halt a day at the fedl. City, and from the heat of the season and other circumstances must travel slow, it is not likely I shall arrive there before the middle of the following week.³⁷

37. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY AND WAR

Philadelphia, September 14, 1796.

Sir: As I cannot, without peculiar inconvenience to my private concerns, remain in this City beyond sunday next; I desire that all the business in your department which calls for my immediate attention, may be presented to me in the course of this week. 79

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1796.

Sir: Your letters of the 17th 20 and 20th instant have been received.

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Enclosed you have a Warrant on the Secy of the Treasury for two thousand dollars for Contingent purposes, agreeably to your request.

'Tis well to learn from Mr. Monroe's own pen that he trusted the French Councils relative to us were fixed, and that he should hear nothing more from the Directory on the subject he had frequently touched upon in his former letters. If his conjectures are right it

will not be difficult to account for the cause.

It affords much satisfaction that Judge Benson⁸⁷ has accepted the office of third Commissioner for deciding on the true St. Croix.

As no fit character occurs to me to supply the place of Mr. Marsh ⁸⁸ as District Attorney, I request that you will get what information you can on this head and transmit it to me. ⁸⁹

87. Egbert Benson.

88. Amos Marsh. He was United States attorney for the district of Vermont. Charles Marsh was nominated in his place Dec. 30, 1796, and confirmed by the Senate the same day.

89. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 5th instant with its enclosure, came to hand by friday's post.

The extracts therein produced both pleasure and pain: the former, at hearing that our citizens are at length released from their unfortunate confinement in Algiers, the latter, to find that others of them have fallen into a similar situation at Tunis, contrary to the truce, and to the arrangement made with Mr. Donaldson. ⁹⁵

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'Tis difficult to understand precisely what the French government design relative to this Country, from the accounts given by Mr. Monroe.

The enclosed letter respecting a Judge for the District of Rhode Island, has just been received; and as it is the most eligible choice I see a prospect of making, a Commission may issue accordingly, appointing Benjamin Bourne 96 to that office; provided it is the same gentleman who represents that State in Congress; otherwise, not until further enquiry and consideration are had on the subject.

A short time before I left Philadelphia last, a character was brought

95. Joseph Donaldson, jr. He was United States Consul for Tripoli and Tunis.

96. Bourne was confirmed by the Senate Dec. 22, 1796.

forward and well recommended as Attorney for the District of Kentuckey,⁹⁷ and the appointment met my approbation; but whether a Commission issued in consequence of it, or not, my recollection does not serve me. His name I have forgot; but the letters of recommendation, from the attorney general of the U States and others, were, I think, put into your hands with my sentiments thereon.⁹⁸

97. William Clarke. He was confirmed by the Senate Dec. 22, 1796.

98. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.